

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. MODERATE — 0.5 miles. Trail 1 is a loop trail that begins between Family Cabins #6 and #14, loops through large native timber in McCormick’s Cove Nature Preserve and ends at the entrance to the Family Cabin Area.
- 2. MODERATE — 1.0 miles. Trail 2 begins behind the CCC Recreation Hall and ventures into McCor-mick’s Cove Nature Preserve and ends between Family Cabin #11 and #12. Trail 2 also offers access to the Quarry Loop Trail for observation of the Old State House Quarry.
- 3. RUGGED — 0.8 miles. Trail 3 is a loop trail that begins across from Canyon Inn and offers access to the falls and canyon before ending at Stoney Restroom. There are no bridges crossing the creek. Fluctuating creek levels may make areas of the trail seasonably inaccessible.
- 4. MODERATE — 1.4 miles. Trail 4 begins behind the Canyon Inn Pool and travels toward the Rec-reation Field, McCormick’s Cove Nature Preserve and the CCC Firetower. Trail 4 ends on the road near Canyon Inn.
- 5. MODERATE — 2.0 miles. Trail 5 is a loop trail that begins at the Wolf Cave Parking Area, enters Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, loops through a Beech-Maple forest, crosses Litten Branch, and offers access to Wolf Cave before ending near the Wolf Cave Parking lot.
- 6. EASY — 0.6 miles. Trail 6 begins beside Beech Grove Shelter, travels through dense forest and ends in the Class A campground between camp-sites #19 and #20.
- 7. MODERATE — 1.8 miles. Trail 7 is a loop trail that begins across from the Wolf Cave Parking Lot, travels along the canyon rim before descend-ing toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk, and fishing is permitted on the river.
- 8. ACCESSIBLE — 0.7 mile. Trail 8 is a paved trail that begins in the campground between campsites #14 and #15 and proceeds through woodlands, Pine Bluff Picnic Area ending at the Pool and Concession Stand.
- 9. EASY — 1.2 miles. Trail 9 is a loop trail that begins in the Deer Run Parking area and loops through hardwood forest, old farm fields and crosses the bridle trail twice before ending in the Deer Run area.
- 10. MODERATE— 0.7 miles. Trail 10 begins across McCormick’s Creek from the Old State House Quarry and proceeds upstream to the Trail 3 Stair-way that leads out of the canyon.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

CAMPING— Campground equipped with modern rest-rooms, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Both Electric and Primitvie sites are available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

PRIMITIVE & YOUTH TENT CAMPING — No showers or modern restrooms available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

FAMILY CABINS — Each cabin accommodates a maximum of six people and has a living area, bedroom, bathroom, screened-in porch and kitchen. Cabin #7 is ac-cessible. Pets are not permitted in the cabin area. Open April - October. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

GROUP CAMPS — McCormick’s Creek State Park fea-tures two group camps, Camp McCormick and Camp NaWaKwa. Each camp contains four sleeping barracks with the capacity of twenty-five persons each, a large capacity dining hall/kitchen accomodating 100 people in each camp, modern shower house located in center of both camps. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

HIKING — 10.7 miles of easy to rugged trails.

INN—Guest rooms feature private bath, telephone, coffee pot, hair dryer, TV and air conditioning. The restaurant is open to the public and serves three meals seven days a week year around. The Inn’s outdoor pool is open to Inn guest only. No pets allowed. Guest and meeting rooms are equipped with wireless Internet service. Reservations are available through the inns reservation system.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Open all year, and designed on a ‘Please Touch - Gently’ theme, it includes natural history exhibits, nature games and quizzes, and a full range of naturalist-led activities available free of charge to park visitors. A self-guiding nature trail lies just behind the center. Program schedules are available at the nature center or by visiting the website at www.interpreti-veservices.IN.gov or call (812) 829-4344.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields. In addition, McCormick’s Creek has 7 open shelters and 4 recreation buildings. Reserva-tions for shelters are available through the Central Reser-vation System.

RECREATION CENTER— Offers a unique outlet for leisure activity within the park. Complete facilities include racquet-ball, handball, basketball, volleyball and shuffleboard courts and a game room.

SADDLE BARN — Trail rides and Hayrides offered. For reservation information contact the McCormick’s Creek Stables at (812) 829-8848

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do not gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood. It must be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except validly licensed handguns)BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without per-mission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times des-ignated by the department.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved road-way. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Bicycles must be used on roadways and are not allowed on hiking trails.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

SWIMMING — Park pool open the Saturday before Me-morial Day and no later than Labor Day. For Swimming availability contact the park office.

TENNIS COURTS — Lighted for night playing. Located behind Canyon Inn.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forest can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)





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Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**
(1-877-563-4371)
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FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: McCormick’s Creek State Park
250 McCormick’s Creek Park Road
Spencer, Indiana 47460

Call: (812) 829-2235

Call: Nature Center Information
(812) 829-4344

Call: Saddle Barn Information
(812) 829-8848

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.IN.gov


SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminat-ed against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

McCORMICK’s
CREEK
STATE PARK



Long before pioneers entered the area now known as McCormick’s Creek, the Mi-ami Indians roamed the land. The Indians had camps along the banks of the White River to the north and south, but what is now state park land was far too rugged, filled with canyons and ravines, to invite settlement. Instead, it became a hunting ground, offering deer, squirrel, grouse, and fish from its deep woods and clear streams. It wasn’t until 1816 that the first settler laid claim to the area, when John McCormick homesteaded nearly one hundred acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. In those days it was common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, and thus McCormick’s Creek received its name.

Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed their livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, although the water level and

force was never great enough to make the ventures profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran into problems trying to get the cut rock across the river to the railroad line on the other side.

The turning point in the McCormick’s Creek history came in 1888 when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkwalter, a physician who was in-terested in the scenic and restful qualities of the site. Dr. Denkwalter felt the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs would be the perfect location to build a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy and the weary to ‘get away from it all’ and recuperate. The original sanitarium, built on the present-day Canyon Inn site, was a white-sided structure with long porches on every side. It offered guests plenty of access to the loveliness of the well-landscaped grounds where Denkwalter delighted in planting a variety of trees and shrubs. Meanwhile, local residents continued to picnic and hike along the canyon, making the spot a favorite of everyone for rest and relaxation.

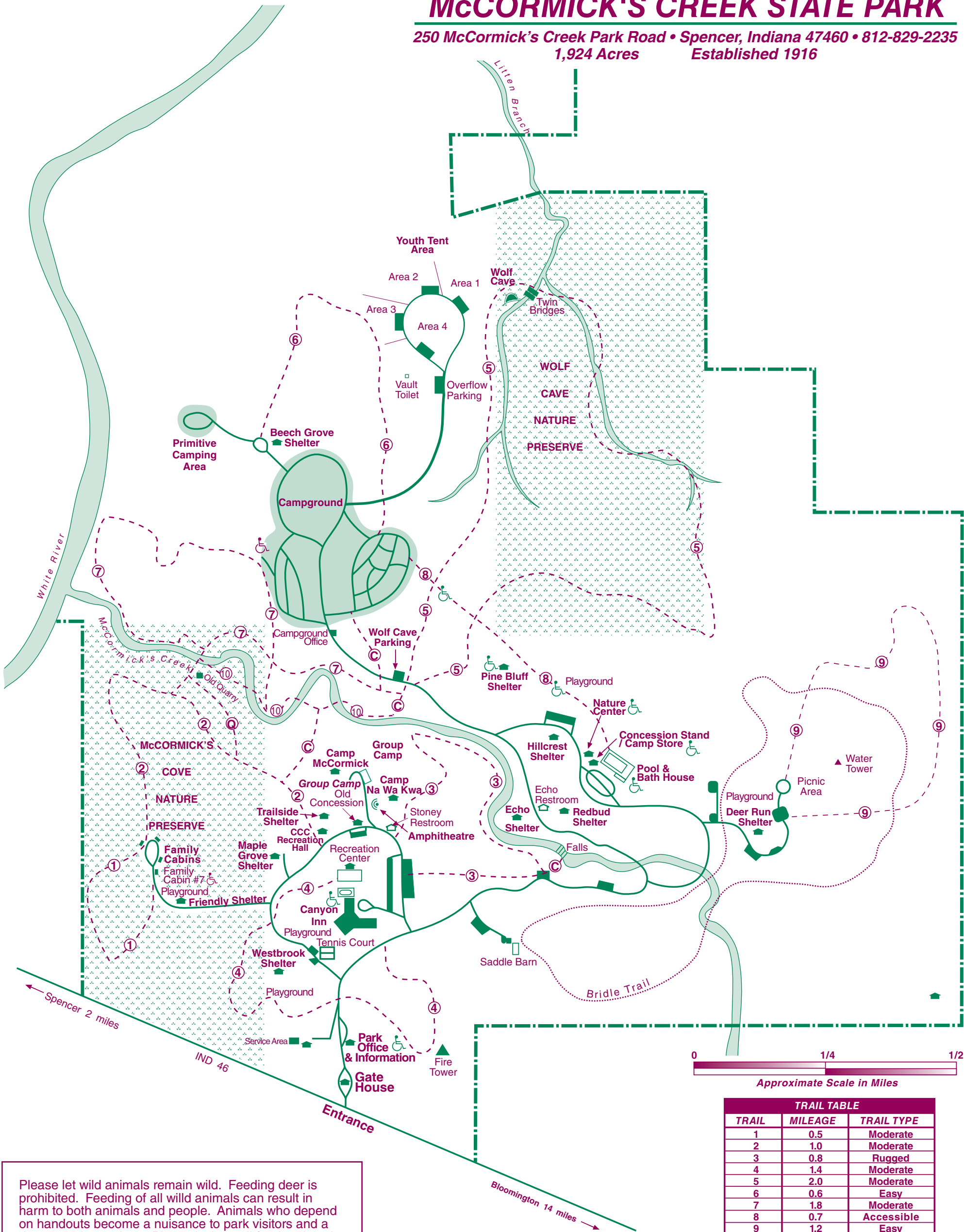
With the death of Dr. Denkwalter in 1914, his es-tate went up for sale at a land auction. Both Owen County and the State of Indiana were interested in maintaining McCormick’s Creek in its park-like set-ting, and so the land was purchased. McCormick’s Creek State Park was dedicated as Indiana’s first state park on July 4, 1916, as part of the state’s cen-tennial celebration.

Canyon Inn opened its doors in the old sanitarium building. A few years later in the early 1920’s, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Subsequent changes have brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the Inn today still rests on the original foundations of the Denkwalter sanitarium.

Originally a little over 350 acres in size, McCor-mick’s Creek State Park has grown to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farms and homesteads as they come up for sale. Much of the park’s building improvements came in the 1930’s when the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) was in the park. The CCC men constructed most of the shelter houses, the old stone bridge, and the fire-tower. Another surge of development came in the early 1970’s when the present campgrounds, nature center and swimming pool were added. Today the park is a delightful combination of history set in up-to-date modern surroundings.

McCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK

250 McCormick's Creek Park Road • Spencer, Indiana 47460 • 812-829-2235
1,924 Acres Established 1916



Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.

TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	0.5	Moderate
2	1.0	Moderate
3	0.8	Rugged
4	1.4	Moderate
5	2.0	Moderate
6	0.6	Easy
7	1.8	Moderate
8	0.7	Accessible
9	1.2	Easy
10	0.7	Rugged

C - Connector Trails
Q - Quarry Loop

LEGEND			
	Road		Boundary
	Hiking Trail		Accessible
	Horse Trail		
	Nature Preserve		



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

